

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Interview with David Krieger

by Alla Yaroshinskaya

Yaroshinskaya: One of the most sensitive topics of Russian-American relations is the American missile defense system in Europe. Do you personally believe that this system is directed only against countries such as Iran and North Korea, but not against Russia, as American officials declare?

Krieger: My personal belief is that the U.S. missile defense system is primarily a means of funneling public funds to "defense" contractors. I doubt that missile defenses will ever actually be successful in stopping nuclear-armed missiles, and will certainly never be successful against a country, such as Russia, with sophisticated nuclear forces. Thus, I think it is correct that U.S. missile defenses are aimed at less sophisticated countries, such as Iran and North Korea, rather than at Russia. It is easy to understand, though, why Russia is concerned. Surely, the U.S. would also be concerned if Russia attempted to put missile defense installations near the U.S. border.

To read the full interview, [click here](#).

30 Years After WarGames, Director John Badham Recalls Nuclear Blockbuster

by Robert Kazel

The 1983 nuclear action-adventure movie *WarGames* presented the story of David Lightman (Matthew Broderick), a high school student, computer prodigy and hacker who uses a dial-up modem to play what he thinks is a computer game – only to reach a top-secret system at the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). The intrusion is accidental but triggers a domino effect that accelerates toward world war, as government computer experts and generals find themselves helpless to halt the "game" that NORAD's overzealous computer has initiated on Lightman's suggestion.

To mark the 30th-anniversary year of *WarGames*, NAPF talked to John Badham, the film's director. Badham's decision to mix the right amounts of humor, action and teen romance into the film is now credited with making it a smash hit – without sacrificing a serious moral about the futility of war and a nightmarish quality of dread that persists throughout.

To read the full interview, [click here](#).

Reader Response: The Risks Remain High

by Gunnar Westberg

The author is writing in response to the article "[Nuclear Strategist Paul Bracken Says Present Risks Worse Than In Cold War](#)" by Robert Kazel.

Professor Bracken seems to be mostly concerned with the risks associated with nuclear proliferation, and not with the danger arising from the nuclear arsenals of Russia and the USA. He does not see as real the risks of nuclear war started by mistake or intervention in the command systems. One reason is that he is convinced that the nuclear weapons are no longer on High Alert. He states that [protocols concerning] emergency authorization to use nuclear weapons have been revoked.

It would be very helpful if he provided us with the reason for that opinion. The information available to me gives no support for his statement.

To read the full response, [click here](#).

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

U.S. Warhead Numbers Decline; Secrecy Continues

At a summit on nuclear deterrence in February 2013, Dr. Donald Cook, the National Nuclear Security Administration's administrator for defense programs, claimed that the U.S. has reduced its nuclear stockpile by 87 percent since its peak of 31,255 warheads in 1967. Dr. Cook later modified his estimate to 85 percent. This means that the U.S. still has approximately 4,688 active nuclear warheads (either deployed or in reserve). The figure does not include the estimated 3,000 nuclear weapons awaiting dismantlement.

The Obama administration has emphasized the importance of transparency to support non-proliferation and arms control efforts. However, all nuclear stockpile numbers after September 2009 continue to be a secret. This forces administration officials to speak in vague terms instead of real numbers, which inhibits further progress on global nuclear reductions.

Kristensen, Hans, "[\(Still\) Secret U.S. Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Reduced](#)," *Federation of American Scientists*, February 26, 2013.

Nuclear Disarmament

Arab League Threatens to Boycott Non-Proliferation Treaty Meeting

Arab League nations have called for a boycott of an upcoming preparatory committee meeting of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in April. They claim they will boycott the events if progress is not made toward convening an international summit on banning weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East. The 189 member nations of the NPT agreed in May 2010 to hold talks regarding the establishment of a Middle East free of all nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons before the end of 2012. However, the U.S. canceled the meeting, citing "present conditions" in the region.

Grossman, Elaine, "[Arab League Threatens Nonproliferation Event Boycott](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, February 21, 2013.

Missile Defense

Study Shows European Missile Defense Won't Protect U.S.

A U.S. Department of Defense study has raised doubts about whether a multibillion-dollar missile defense system in Europe can protect the U.S. from possible future Iranian missiles, as the U.S. military currently claims. The study also highlights concerns over likely diplomatic and military reactions to the European missile defense system from Russia, which views the system as a direct threat.

Reports by the Government Accountability Office and scientific bodies advising the government have raised other concerns about the missile shield, citing production glitches, cost overruns and problems with radars and sensors that cannot distinguish between warheads and other objects.

Butler, Desmond, "[Flaws Found in U.S. Missile Shield](#)," *Associated Press*, February 9, 2013.

Nuclear Testing

North Korea Tests Third Nuclear Weapon

On February 12, North Korea conducted its third test of a nuclear weapon since 2006. Full details of the blast are not yet known, including whether it involved plutonium or highly enriched uranium. Initial reports indicate that the blast was bigger than North Korea's previous two tests, in 2006 and 2009.

The U.S. Senate approved a bill condemning North Korea for its test and calling for tougher sanctions against the country. The United Nations Security Council also condemned the test, though no decision has been made on implementing additional economic sanctions.

["Senate Approves Bill Condemning North Korea Nuclear Test, Pressing for Tougher Action,"](#) *Associated Press*, February 25, 2013.

Nuclear Waste

Meteors and Leaking Tanks Draw Attention to Contaminated Nuclear Facilities

Two cities that were once the sites of highly secret nuclear weapons plants made international headlines once again in February.

In Chelyabinsk, Siberia, a speeding meteor produced a shock wave that shattered windows and injured more than 1,000 people on February 15. The huge blast and dramatic videos of the meteor drew international attention. The city housed Soviet nuclear weapons facilities that heavily contaminated the Techa River during the Cold War.

In Hanford, Washington, officials revealed that six underground storage tanks holding radioactive liquid have been leaking at the Hanford nuclear reservation, America's most contaminated nuclear weapons production site. Officials are concerned about similar deterioration of some of the hundreds of other underground tanks that also store waste from nuclear weapons production.

["Cold War Lingers in a Pair of Cities,"](#) *Evansville Courier & Press*, February 21, 2013.

War and Peace

Barbara Lee Introduces Legislation for Department of Peacebuilding

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) has introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives calling for the establishment of a Department of Peacebuilding. The bill, H.R. 808, the "Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2013," would charge the new department with "developing national strategies and programs for violence reduction both domestically and internationally."

Rep. Lee said, "We invest hundreds of billions each year in the Pentagon, in war colleges, military academies, and our national defense universities all to develop war tactics and strategies. Now we need that kind of investment in peace and nonviolence here at home."

Chamberlain, Jacob, ["'Department of Peacebuilding' Aims to Fight U.S. 'Culture of Violence,'"](#) *Common Dreams*, February 26, 2013.

Resources

The Delusional Thinking Behind Nuclear Deterrence

The British organization Medact, the U.K. affiliate of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), has published a new report entitled "The Delusional Thinking Behind a Policy of Nuclear Deterrence." The report examines why many political leaders appear to be resistant to changing their nuclear policies despite public opposition to nuclear weapons.

To read the full report, [click here](#).

Disarm Your Degree

ICAN Australia has published a report titled *Disarm Your Degree*, which examines Australian public university investments in nuclear arms makers. The report confirms that four universities do invest in nuclear weapons producers and 12 do not. For the remaining 17 universities, insufficient information was available.

Divesting funds from nuclear weapons producers is a way for Australian public and private institutions, including universities, to contribute meaningfully towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

To read the report, [click here](#).

Envisioning a World Without Nuclear Weapons

I have known David Krieger for the past twenty-five years, and he has never wavered, even for a day, from his lifelong journey dedicated to ridding the world of nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war. If I were given to categorization, I would label such an extraordinary engagement with a cause as an instance of "benign fanaticism." Unfortunately, from the perspective of the human future, it is a rather rare condition, posing the puzzle as to why Krieger should be so intensely inclined, given his seemingly untraumatized background. He traces his own obsession back to his mother's principled refusal to install a bomb shelter in the backyard of their Los Angeles home when he was 12 years old. He comments in the Preface to *ZERO* that even at the time he "hadn't expected" her to take such a stand, which he experienced as "a powerful lesson in compassion," and was especially moved by her unwillingness "to buy into saving herself at the expense of humanity."

What *ZERO* does better than any of Krieger's earlier books on nuclear weapons, and indeed more comprehensively and lucidly than anyone else anywhere, is to provide the reader with the reasons for thinking, feeling, and acting with a comparable passion until the goal of abolishing the totality of nuclear weaponry is finally reached.

To read the full book review, [click here](#). To order the book, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

Video of Dennis Kucinich Lecture Now Available

On February 8, 2013, Dennis Kucinich delivered the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 12th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future to an overflow crowd of 700 people at the Lobero Theatre in Santa

Barbara, California. His lecture was entitled "Restoring Hope for America's Future Through Developing a Culture of Peace."

[Click here](#) to watch the video of his speech, or [click here](#) to read the written transcript of his speech. [Click here](#) to read NAPF President David Krieger's introduction at the lecture.

Upcoming Peace Leadership Workshops

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is offering two upcoming Peace Leadership workshops that are open to the public. NAPF Peace Leadership Director Paul K. Chappell will teach a three-unit Peace Leadership course at the University of San Diego. In July, NAPF is offering a week-long workshop in Santa Barbara.

For more information on the course at the University of San Diego, [click here](#). For more information about the summer workshop in July, [click here](#).

Video Contest Closes on April 1

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 2013 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest is underway. Contestants will make a video of three minutes or less addressing the topic, "In My Lifetime: Why Nuclear Weapons Must Be Abolished Urgently."

President Obama has stated that America is committed "to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons." However, he also said that it is unlikely that this goal will be achieved in his lifetime.

The contest is open to people of all ages around the world. Videos must be submitted by April 1. For more information on the 2013 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest, [click here](#).

Oslo Conference on Catastrophic Humanitarian Consequences

NAPF Director of Programs Rick Wayman will attend the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' Civil Society Forum in Oslo, Norway, March 1-4. The Civil Society Forum precedes a government conference hosted by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

While in Norway, Rick will network with campaigners from around the world working on these issues and will share NAPF's video "[Nuclear Famine](#)," which outlines the catastrophic global consequences of even a "limited" regional nuclear war, and the [Santa Barbara Declaration](#) on the dangers of nuclear deterrence.

Building a Framework for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World

NAPF President David Krieger represented the Foundation at the Berlin Framework Forum, February 21-22 in Berlin, Germany. The forum, "Creating the Conditions and Building the Framework for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World," was sponsored by the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI) and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

[Click here](#) to read a briefing paper that was prepared in advance of the conference laying out a framework for a nuclear weapons-free world.

Quotes

"Officially we have abandoned the mindset of the Cold War - Russia and NATO countries say that they do not see each other as adversaries... but we should admit that we should still come a long way to match our words with deeds."

-- Russian Foreign Minister **Sergey Lavrov**.

"Nuclear weapons serve as a prism through which to perceive new perspectives on ecological integrity, economic development and human rights. This in turn helps us identify the elements that will shape the contours of a new, sustainable society, one in which all people can live in dignity."

-- **Daisaku Ikeda**, President of Soka Gakkai International, in his [2013 Peace Proposal](#).

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